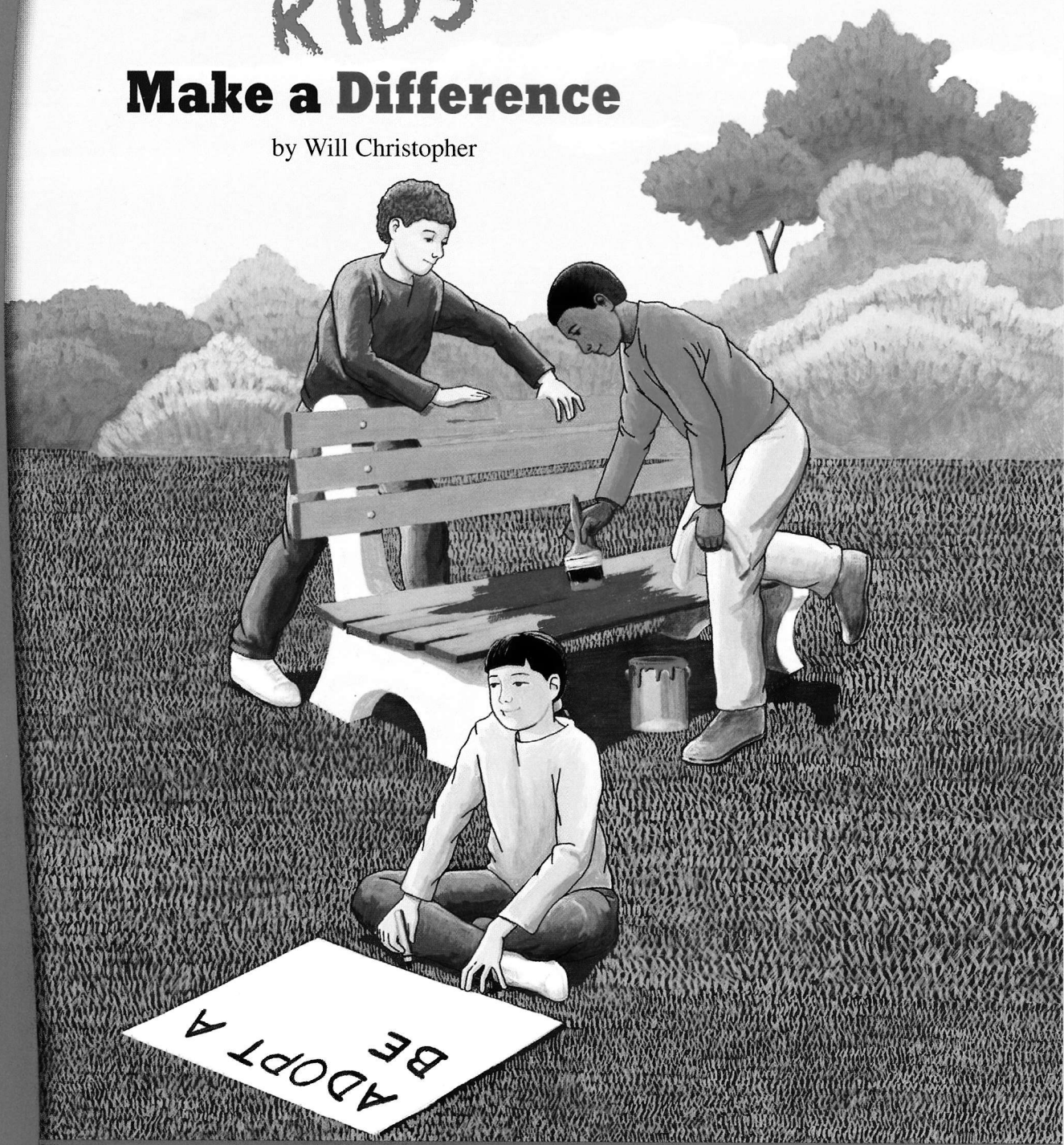


KIDS

Make a Difference

by Will Christopher



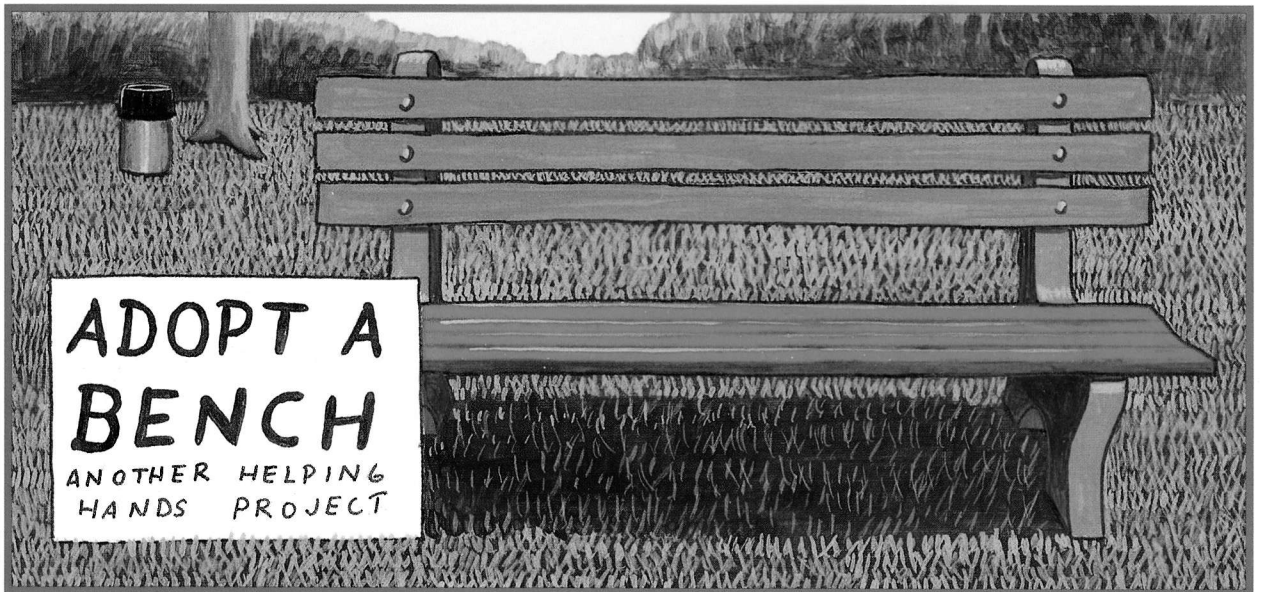
1 Members of the Helping Hands Club often asked their neighbors, "How can we help?" Club members always looked for projects such as cleaning basements,

weeding gardens, and picking up litter. The club's motto was "Where there's a problem, there's a need. When we work together, we succeed."

- 2 One day, the club members were meeting at Lincoln Park. They noticed that Mrs. Crow seemed unhappy. Vince said, "Mrs. Crow, you usually sit on the bench to feed the birds. Why are you standing?"
- 3 Mrs. Crow replied, "This wooden bench is not safe. The paint has chipped away. Yesterday, I got a splinter in my leg while sitting on the bench. I may have to find another bench at a different park." Then Mrs. Crow went home.
- 4 The friends looked at each other and said, "There's a problem here. There's a need. Let's work together. We'll succeed." As they talked, it became clear what they must do. "We should wear our work clothes for this job," Amy said. "We also need to get permission."
- 5 The next day, the Helping Hands met at the park. Everything was set. They just needed to get some supplies. Amy said, "Josh, please bring sandpaper. Kate, you get the brushes. Kyle, ask Mr. Good at the hardware store for paint. Find out if we

can pay him later. I will bring posterboard and markers."

- 6 The children quickly gathered their supplies and then returned to the park. They went right to work. Later, Mrs. Crow walked by the park. What the children were doing surprised her. She hurried home to call the newspaper and the mayor. Then, she made lemonade and cookies and went back to the park.
- 7 Amy had placed a poster by the bench. It read, "Adopt a Bench. Another Helping Hands Project." A newspaper reporter took the children's picture while they worked.
- 8 When they finished, the bench looked as good as new. They had cookies and lemonade to celebrate. They mayor talked with the children. She said, "You fixed the bench. You have made a difference. Your help has given me an idea for a citywide project. There are other benches . . ." But before she could finish, the children asked, "How can we help?"



COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

1 Another good name for this story is

- a** A Day at the Park.
- b** Adopt a Bench.
- c** Join a Club.

2 A *motto* is

- a** a group that solves problems.
- b** a funny poem that rhymes.
- c** a short saying that tells the main idea or purpose.

3 The Helping Hands Club helped neighbors by

- a** performing projects such as weeding and picking up litter.
- b** meeting in the park and staying out of the way.
- c** selling homemade lemonade and cookies.

4 Mrs. Crow called the newspaper and the mayor because

- a** she wanted people to know how hard the children had worked.
- b** she wanted the children to stop painting the bench.
- c** she wanted people to help the children paint all the benches.

5 The children's idea worked because

- a** they worked together.
- b** they knew city workers would come to paint the bench.
- c** they painted the park bench every year.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 group that meets for a reason (1)
- 2 special jobs; tasks (1)
- 3 a thin, sharp piece of wood (3)
- 4 approval (4)
- 5 things needed to do a job (5)
- 6 collected; got together (6)
- 7 to observe a special event (8)

C **too** = also

two = the number after *one*

Words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings are called homophones. *Too* and *two* are homophones.

Look at each word in **bold type**.

Note the paragraph number. Look at the paragraph and find the homophone. Which of the two words fits in the blank in the sentence? Write the word.

8 **knead** (4)

They _____ to work together.



LEARN ABOUT WORDS (continued)

9 write (6)

The children went _____
home.

10 knew (8)

The club has a _____ project.

THINK ABOUT IT

D Each sentence tells about an important part of the story. Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 The club members did projects because
 - a they wanted to help their neighbors.
 - b they liked to meet in the park.
- 2 Mrs. Crow was standing because
 - a she got a splinter from the bench she usually sat on.
 - b she was tired and wanted to stretch her legs.
- 3 In order to solve Mrs. Crow's problem, the children needed to
 - a get help from the mayor.
 - b get permission and supplies.
- 4 The children made the bench look as good as new by
 - a sanding it and painting it.
 - b replacing it with a different bench from another park.
- 5 After Mrs. Crow hurried home, the children
 - a celebrated with a pizza party.
 - b talked to the mayor about a citywide project.

E bak~~e~~ + **er** = baker
skat~~e~~ + **ed** = skated
smil~~e~~ + **ing** = smiling

When a word ends with *e*, you drop that *e* before adding the endings *-er*, *-ed*, and *-ing*.

Each underlined word below ends with *-er*, *-ed*, or *-ing*. Write the word as it would be without the ending. For example, if you read *racing*, you would write *race*.

- 6 The club members were good at solving problems.
- 7 The club owed Mr. Good money for the paint.
- 8 Amy was a good sign maker.
- 9 Mrs. Crow tasted the lemonade.
- 10 The mayor liked the bench.